

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis is focused on the teaching of paleontology and historical geology at the 2nd level of primary school within the educational subject of natural history. The theoretical part summarizes a problematic of paleontology in the Czech Republic, including its historical development, and presents the system of curricular documents of the Czech Republic primarily the Framework Education Program for Elementary Education. The main aim of the thesis is to compile five thematic teaching blocks from historical geology, which can be used in the teaching of natural history at the primary school and in the corresponding levels of multi-year grammar schools. The practical part described the teaching blocks including their methodology and three research surveys thematically aimed to identification of students' interest in paleontology within the blocks, students' ideas about an appearance of the dinosaurs, and their evaluation of dinosaur images from various popular books, feature films and toys. The interest of students in the teaching blocks was evaluated using a questionnaire survey (113 participates). A "correct" appearance of the dinosaurs was studied by comparing drawings of dinosaurs with four characteristic features drawn by 107 pupils. The evaluation of dinosaur images was carried out by comparing 94 image templates with the same features as the students' drawings mentioned above. The testing of the blocks and mentioned research were carried out at primary school Na Beránku, Prague 12. The results show that the topics of paleontology and historical geology are not very attractive for students and their inclusion in the teaching does not affect higher interest in natural history. It has also confirmed that students have misconceptions about the appearance of dinosaurs that do not correspond to the modern knowledge about this group of organisms. Furthermore, it was found that the images of dinosaurs in different artworks correspond to scientific knowledge except for toys and unfortunately textbooks for primary schools.